THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 5th September, 2001 training part of Indo-British Training Project on 'Gender & Law' was launched by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. Thereafter, fifteen 3-days judicial colloquia on 'Gender & Law' were organised by the National Judicial academy at 13 different places of India, covering almost every part of the country and all the High Courts, from 29th September, 2001 to 29th December, 2001. These colloquia were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and its valedictory and other session were chaired by senior-most Hon'ble Judges of the respective High Courts. During these colloquia, about 835 judicial officers were trained on how to deal with cases concerning gender laws and they were asked to disseminate the experience gained by them among other judicial officers of their States. Resource pack containing message dated 25th September, 2001 of the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, suggesting effective practice and procedures to be followed by the Judicial Officers during the trial of rape or other sexual abuse cases, was also widely circulated and discussed among judicial officers and participants to the above judicial colloquia.

However, as per information available, Women Courts have been constituted in the States of Andhra Pradesh (3) Karnataka (4), Rajasthan (4) and NCT of Delhi (6).

Central grant for construction of courts and residential accommodation

2306. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central grants are released to the State for the construction of High Courts, District Courts and residential accommodation for Judges therein;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the grants, so far, made available to Gujarat for this purpose and number of courts and residential accommodations constructed in the State; and

(d) whether all the District Courts in the State are having good and reasonable accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Although the expenditure to be incurred in respect of High Court and Subordinate Courts is primarily the concern of the State Governments/UT Administration, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary is being implemented from 1993-94 with a view to augment the resources of the State Goverments. The Scheme includes construction of courts buildings and residential accommodation for judges and judicial officers covering the High Courts and Subordinate Courts. As per the Scheme, the State Governments are to contribute an amount equivalent to the amount released by the Centre. However, the State Governments are free to spend additional amount over and above the amount required to be spent by them under the Scheme. The UTs are given cent per cent grant under the Scheme.

The Planning Commission provides funds to the Department of Justice every year for this Scheme. Thereafter, the funds are allocated to all the states/UTs on the basis of the criterion approved for this purpose by the Planning Commission. Based on this criterion, an amount of Rs. 485.27 crore including the amount transferred to Non-lapsable Central Pool for NE States and Sikkim has already been released to various States/UTs from the year 1993-94 to 2001-2002.

(c) From 1993-94 till 2001-2002, and amount of Rs. 16.65 crore has been released to the State of Gujarat under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities to the judiciary. As per the available information, 17 court buildings and 111 units of residential quarters for judges have been constructed. In additional to this, an amount of Rs. 10.00 crore was released to the Government of Gujarat as additional Central grant assistance for construction of new High Court buildings at Sola, Ahmedabad.

(d) It is for the State Government to ensure that the required infrastructural facilities are provided to the District Courts in the State.

Representation of SC/ST and Women Judges

2307. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Judges in the Supreme Court and in the various High Courts in the country, court-wise;

(b) the details of percentage of SC/ST and Women Judges; court-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that our judicial system is not adequately represented by the above sections; and

(d) if so, the comments of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) A Statement is enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) to (d) As on 11th April 2002, the number of sitting women Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts, was 1 and 19 respectively.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. There is no proposal at present for incorporating in the Constitution of India clauses providing for reservation of SC/ST or Women in the matter of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts.

The Central Government has however, been writing to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justice of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other